

**REMARKS**

The claims are claims 1, 3 and 5 to 21.

The application has been further amended at many locations to correct minor errors and to present uniform language throughout. The citation to the U.K patent application has been updated to reflect the grant of a U.S. patent claiming priority from this U.K. application.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 are amended. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled. New claims 10 to 21 are added. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claims 2 and 4. Claim 3 is amended to depend on amended claim 1 rather than canceled claim 2. Claims 5 and 7 are amended into independent form to incorporate the limitations of former base claim 1. Claim 8 is amended to depend on claim 7. Claim 9 is amended to depend on claim 1. New claims 10 to 13 correspond to respective original claims 2, 3, 6 and 9 except dependent upon claim 5. New claims 14 to 17 correspond to respective original claims 2, 3, 6 and 9 except dependent upon claim 7. New claim 18 includes the limitations of original claims 1 and 6. New claims 19 to 21 correspond to respective original claims 2, 3 and 9 except dependent upon claim 18.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bauman et al U.S. Patent Number 6,160,812. The OFFICIAL ACTION states that Bauman et al teaches at column 9, lines 18 to 39 and illustrated in Figure 5 a plurality of channel modules for transferring packet requests to the scheduler 132; upon dispatching of a transfer request packet to a free data transfer channel, the channel module transmits a DONE\_CHN signal.

Claims 6 and 18 recite subject matter not anticipated by Bauman et al. Claims 6 and 18 recite "upon dispatching of a transfer request packet to a free data transfer channel, sending a queue acknowledge signal to said transfer request node originating said transfer request packet." This queue acknowledge signal is sent

when the transfer request is dispatched to a free channel. The cited portion of Bauman et al teaches another signal generated on a different condition. Bauman et al states at column 9, lines 18 to 20:

"The DONE\_CHN signal indicates to the scheduler when the input channel has completed transmitting the current group of switching cells."

Bauman et al also states at column 9, lines 26 to 30:

"The DONE\_CHN signal is also used to determine which output channels have become available to receive switching cells. Determining available output channels from a DONE\_CHN signal that indicates the availability of an input channel is accomplished through a look-up table."

Finally, Bauman et al states at column 9, lines 34 to 39:

"When a DONE\_CHN signal is received by the scheduler, the look-up table for the corresponding input channel is accessed and the identified output channels in the look-up table are released and made available for future switching."

These portions of Bauman et al, which are within the part cited in the OFFICIAL ACTION, state that the DONE\_CHN signal is generated when a data transfer completes. This is a different time than when a free channel is allocated as recited in claims 6 and 18. Bauman et al states at column 9, lines 30 to 32:

"A look-up table is updated each time a grant is issued to an input channel."

Thus Bauman et al recognizes the event claimed (grant of an input channel) but does not teach generation of signal to the originating node upon this event. Accordingly, claims 6 and 18 are not anticipated by Bauman et al.

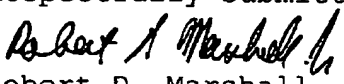
Claims 19 to 21 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 18.

Paragraph 8 on page 5 of the OFFICIAL ACTION stated that claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Amended claim 1 recites the subject matter of original claim 4 and intervening claim 2 and is therefore allowable. Claims 3 and 9 are allowable by dependent upon allowable claim 1. Amended claim 5 now includes all limitations of its previous base claim 1 and is therefore allowable. Claims 10 to 13 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 5. Amended claim 7 now includes all limitations of its previous base claim 1 and is therefore allowable. Claims 14 to 17 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 7.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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